



Durham Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 14, Libraries Element

**Durham City-County Planning Department
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The Durham Comprehensive Plan

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Libraries Element



Goal
**Goal 1, Library
Facilities, Services,
and Technology**

The purpose of the Libraries Element of the Durham Comprehensive Plan is to ensure the provision of library services to the people of Durham County. The Libraries Element identifies strategies for providing library facilities and services sufficient to meet the needs of Durham's diverse and rapidly growing population. The Durham County Library faces many challenges in meeting the information needs of an evolving, multi-ethnic and multi-literate population.

Summary of Issues

- 1. Library Facilities and Growth.** As Durham continues to grow, new residents will need additional library facilities. In some locations, this may mean expanding existing facilities and upgrading technology. In other locations, existing facilities do not exist and Durham will need to identify needed facilities, select appropriate sites and program construction. Present capital improvements planning for the Durham County Library has identified three new branch libraries and two expansion projects to meet the growing demand for library services. How can Durham implement these plans? What needs will Durham face beyond these the Durham County Library face over the coming decades?
- 2. Service Expansion.** The Durham County Library has identified the need for several key service expansions. Services need to be increased for children aged five and under and for young adults. The Library needs to expand its hours of operation and capacity for remote access in order to increase community access to library services. In addition, the Durham County Library needs to expand the service it provides to Hispanics and other non-English speaking populations.
- 3. Technology.** Through its strategic planning, the Durham County Library has identified a variety of needs related to technology. These needs include upgrading the Library's computerized central collection catalogue and circulation software, as well as overall upgrading and coordination of the Library's personal computers targeted for patron use. How can the Durham County Library address these operational needs as well as its future facility needs?

Goal 14.1, Library Facilities, Services, and Technology

Provide library facilities and services that are state-of-the-art, accessible and attractive, and of sufficient size and design to meet the Library's mission. Build on current Library strengths and meet the service needs of a wide array of citizens.

Objective 14.1.1. Library Level of Service Standards

Establish level of service standards for the provision of library facilities to meet community needs.

Policy 14.1.1a. Library Level of Service Standards, Space.

Durham County shall provide Library building space equal to at least 0.50 square feet per capita. Sufficient space shall be provided to accommodate the planned program of service for each facility.

Policy 14.1.1b. Library Level of Service Standard, Books.

Durham County shall maintain Library books in an amount equal to at least 3.00 books per capita.

Policy 14.1.1c. Library Level of Service Standards, Distribution.

Durham County shall provide Library facilities such that most County residents are within 5 miles of a Library facility.

Objective 14.1.2. Existing Facilities

Improve and expand existing library facilities.

Policy 14.1.2a. Facilities Renovation Plan. The Durham County Library and the County Engineering Department shall develop a plan for periodic maintenance and renovation of existing facilities.

Policy 14.1.2b. Library Space Needs Assessment. The Durham County Library and County Engineering Department, in conjunction with community organizations, shall perform a space needs assessment at all facilities.

Objective 14.1.3. New Facilities

Provide new library facilities to meet demand created by a diverse and growing population.

Policy 14.1.3a. Long Range Facilities Plan. The Durham County Library shall work with the County Engineering Department and community organizations to develop a long range plan for facilities that reflects the adopted Library level of service standard and the anticipated population growth.

Policy 14.1.3b. Surplus Properties Evaluation. The Durham County Library, County Engineering Department, and the City General Services Department shall jointly evaluate the viability of publicly owned surplus properties for development of library facilities.

Durham County Library

Mission Statement

The mission of the Durham County Library is to provide to the entire community books, services, and other resources which inform, inspire learning, cultivate understanding, and excite the imagination.

Policy 14.1.3c. Libraries and Co-Location. In order to maximize accessibility, the Durham County Library shall explore opportunities for co-location of libraries with other government and community facilities, such as schools, parks, and community centers.

Objective 14.1.4. Technology Management Plan

Implement the recommendations of the Technology Management Plan.

Policy 14.1.4a. New Technology. The Durham County Library shall continually evaluate opportunities for integrating new technology in its operations and management.